

Leading Article

THE ROLE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING (I.A.E.E.)

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The IAEE was established at the second world conference on earthquake engineering (WCEE) in Japan in 1960. The objects of the association are the promotion of international co-operation amongst scientists and engineers in the field of earthquake engineering, through interchange of knowledge, ideas, and results of research and technical experience. Each of the 30 member countries has a national committee which names a delegate and deputy delegate. The delegates (or deputy delegates) form the general assembly which elects a president, executive vice-president, and not more than 8 directors. These together with the secretary-general and the secretary form the executive committee. At present Chile, India, Japan, New Zealand, Portugal, U.K., U.S.A., and U.S.S.R. have nationals on the executive. One of the most important functions of the executive committee is to give assistance to the national committees in the host country planning the next world conference. Formal invitations have been received from Italy, India and Turkey to hold the 5 WCEE in 1973. Ballots received so far from the directors give first choice votes as follows: Italy 5, Turkey 4, India 2. One ballot has not yet been received but it is clear that the choice favours Italy or Turkey and those two countries have been requested to supply additional information on conference facilities, support personnel and financial backing as well as hotel facilities. The IAEE is expected to make a decision on the location of the next conference by mid 1970.

One other continuing activity is the participation in the Joint Committee on Seismology and Earthquake Engineering which advises UNESCO on earthquake matters. This Committee was appointed late in 1968, with 8 members appointed by IAEE and 8 by ASPEI (International Association of Seismology and Physics of the Earths Interior). Once every two years UNESCO asks the Committee to meet (usually in Paris) for three days.

Under contract to UNESCO, IAEE have prepared and published a Directory of university and governmental organisations engaged in earthquake engineering research. This Directory as well as a book containing the seismic building codes of the various countries in earthquake regions of the world have been prepared by the very productive Japanese National Committee.

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A current contract with UNESCO calls for the production of a 100 page Manual of Principles of Earthquake Resistant Design and Construction. The manual will be restricted to buildings, and specifically to small buildings (but including common apartment buildings up to about 12 stories) as it was felt that an illustrated publication of this size could not adequately cover all types of structures and facilities.

The central office of the IAEE is maintained in Japan and the expense of the secretary-general's office has been borne by the Japan society for the promotion of earthquake engineering.